What prevents the fight against plagiarism in diploma and research works

You won't be a stranger's mind - those folk wisdom are not unsuccessfully ignored by those who do not hesitate to build their term papers and dissertations, scientific articles and dissertations on the basis of other people's conclusions. A systemic fight against bad borrowing and outright plagiarism in the educational and scientific fields began in our country several years ago. In the context of the development of information technology, given the promotion of the principles of Open Science, the emergence and use of specialized search engines to detect text borrowings in scientific papers was necessary. But are experts able to correctly interpret the results of such checks?

Demand begets supply

In US, several years ago it was calculated: more than 10% of dissertations in historical sciences, defended after 2000, contain significant borrowings from other dissertations without reference to them. The Learned Publishing magazine recently cited the results of a survey of 372 editors from Europe, Asia, and North America: it turns out that on average 15% of manuscripts submitted to the editors of scientific journals contain plagiarism. The Higher Attestation Commission of the Republic of Belarus speaks of the far from scientific scale of borrowing other people's thoughts. Chairman of the Higher Attestation Commission Alexander Guchok in an interview with the newspaper NAS "Navuka" said that an analysis was made of the Belarusian segment of the Internet and 46 sites were identified that offer custom work! Does the offer exist if there is demand? The Ministry of Antimonopoly Regulation and Trade, by the way, expresses unequivocally about the offer of such services: this is a violation of the Law on Advertising. True, it is extremely difficult to deal with performers: a site limited to visiting a site or an account on social networks quickly gets a new address, and five new ones are posted on the site of a torn post.
Has the thing moved?

Information technology comes to the rescue of fighters with scientific plagiarism. There are plenty of services to find out the degree of uniqueness of texts now on the network: Advego Plagiatus, ETXT, Text.ru, Findcopy, Content watch, Antiplagiat ...

The Ministry of Education gave an impulse in the fight against plagiarists in our country at the beginning of 2017 - it sent a letter to universities, in which it instructed managers to conduct explanatory work with the teaching staff on improving the educational process, including on preventing students from using borrowed works. In turn, the heads of term papers and dissertations, master's theses were instructed to closely monitor the self-expression of students and undergraduates.
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The first to propose a comprehensive solution to the problem was the Belarusian State University. After gaining access to the Anti-Plagiarism system, a regulation was developed here, according to which quotas were introduced for faculties on the number of inspections of course, diploma, dissertation and other works in proportion to the total number of students and faculty. Verification of theses and dissertations in the system became mandatory. It seemed that after the BSU all the other universities would catch up, but soon, as they say, only a fairy tale affects.

"So far, in our country, only 14 out of 51 universities are customers of the system with full access to it," says the official representative of the Anti-Plagiarism company in Belarus for training, associate professor of the Department of Management and Educational Technologies of the Faculty of

Management and Professional Development of Teachers of the Institute for Advanced Studies and Retraining of BSPU them. Maxim Tank Irina Strelkova. - Plus the National Library of Belarus, the Belarusian Agricultural Library named after I.S. Lupinovich of the National Academy of Sciences and several other organizations.

Who will take responsibility?

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Irina Strelkova urges her colleagues not to consider the Russian Anti-Plagiarism as a bureaucratic tool or as a commercial product imposed on the scientific and educational community:

- When we create our system, then we will promote it. In the meantime, "Anti-Plagiarism" is the number one system in the post-Soviet space, working primarily with the english language, in which most of our scientific works are written.

It must be said that the system detects text borrowings and does not recognize photographs, schemes, graphs, charts, and formulas, which often becomes a problem for technical universities. But all this is not so bad. Where the big problem is that the report with the text of the document being checked, where the borrowed text is "highlighted", the sources of borrowing are shown, the percentage of originality is calculated, it must be correctly interpreted. Are employees of universities and research organizations fully prepared for this mission?

- Often the main criterion for the quality of graduation qualifications and scientific works is the high percentage of originality of the text established by the organization based on the results of the verification in the system, established Irina Strelkova. - To be safe, the authors resort to rewriting their own texts